WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) will attend the funeral for Maj. Gen. William H. Gourley at Arlington National Cemetery on Thursday.

Gourley's career carried him to Germany, Korea and Vietnam. He even served for a time with Gen. Colin Powell. Gourley retired from the Army on December 31, 1989, after 36 years of service.

He remained active following his retirement, working on a variety of issues important to local military members, families and veterans. He worked to improve TRICARE service on the Central Coast, he helped fashion a veterans cemetery on the former Fort Ord and he was a key player in laying the groundwork for a joint DOD-VA health care clinic.

Gourley leaves behind a loving family: son Michael; daughters Cecily, Carolyn and Mary Jane; and nine grandchildren, Lindsey, Scott, Allison, Michael, Andrew, Kathryn, Sean, Cole and Carlyanne.

Rep. Farr released the following statement:

"I got to know General Gourley when he retired to the Monterey Peninsula while I was serving in the State Assembly. Even then he was working behind the scenes to make sure the rank-and-file military was taken care of. General Gourley worked hard to make sure a portion of Fort Ord was dedicated to a VA clinic to serve thousands of veterans living in the area. In working to support our veterans, he was leaving something better behind.

"I had the honor and pleasure to interview General Gourley shortly before he died in a retrospective look at his life. I did this as one way to pay tribute to General Gourley, but also as part of the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. Now his story will be there for the generations to hear.

"I will miss General Gourley's energy and his passion and his friendship," said Rep.

Farr. "I am proud to have known him and commend him for his service to the Army and to his fellow man."

Gourley's Veterans History Project video can be viewed online here: http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.58941/

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